

Scott hits the only goal

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Oxford University 0

WYCOMBE expected Thursday night's friendly at home to Oxford University to act as a confidence booster after recent poor performances. They hoped to score four of five goals to give themselves a lift, writes MICHAEL KNOX.

But all they managed against their fair but inexperienced opponents, was a solitary goal by Terry Scott after half-an-hour. Paul Birdseye chipped the ball over the defence to Stewart Atkins who crossed from the bye-line and Scott applied the finishing touch.

Significant

Unfortunately the most significant happening on a damp night, was an injury to Bobby Davies in the first five minutes. He injured knee

ligaments, often a lengthy business, and was replaced by Dave Allanson.

It was a pleasing move for Allanson, last year's Oxford University captain, who thus met up with some of his former teammates.

On view for the first time in a Blues shirt was teenager Mike Doherty, who has just been released by Southampton. A former Amersham Town player in the days of Bob Higgins, Doherty showed some useful touches in midfield and is certainly worth keeping an eye on.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, R. Davies (sub: D. Allanson 13 mins), K. Mead, G. Fowles, M. Doherty, S. Atkins, M. Hollifield, D. Evans (sub: S. Long 69 mins), H. Kennedy, T. Scott.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: M. Power, D. Harrison, M. Mrowiec, N. Morrill, I. Barr, S. Smith (sub: V. Boyle 45 mins), N. Bennett, C. Walton, P. Hannon, M. Hall, R. Nugent (sub: R. Sheaves 80 mins).

Referee: K. Smith (High Wycombe).
Half-time: 1-0. **Scorer:** Wycombe — Scott (31 mins).

BOTH Wycombe Wanderers and Croydon will have something to prove when they meet at Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday) in a crucial Berger Isthmian League encounter.

Wycombe will be out to show that their recent mediocre performances are not a true indication of the team's talent while early pace-setters Croydon will be trying to stop the rot after taking two points from the last 12.

For Wycombe this is a key game. It is probably too late for them to make a challenge for the league title this season, but an encouraging display will put them in good heart for their forthcoming cup ties.

It is as a 'cup' side that Blues will have to make their mark this season. The FA Cup first round draw will be made on Monday, while a day later they entertain Leatherhead in the Hitachi League Cup.

Their main injury doubt concerns striker Stewart Atkins, currently nursing an ankle injury. Les Reed is definitely out after receiving 14 stitches in his back, following last week's accident.

There is better news about John Maskell who trained vigorously on Tuesday night. But his fitness was being further tested in last night's friendly against Oxford University.

Last season Croydon's Youth team went further than any other non-League team in the FA Youth Cup, and more than half that team have been brought, with notable success, into the senior side this year.

One month ago Croydon topped the league in a commanding position. But a recent poor run, which culminated in a 1-0 defeat at Walthamstow on Monday night, has seen them drop to third.

They are a classic mixture of experience and youth, with the senior players being goalkeeper Dave Cobb and skipper Alec Jackson. Leading scorer Charlie Pooley is likely to be missing with a groin injury.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to Oct 31)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	21	13	3	5	37	19	42
L'thr'head	19	11	2	6	34	17	35
Croydon	18	10	4	4	30	16	34
Hendon	20	9	6	5	31	27	33
Dulwich	15	9	5	1	31	11	32
Dagenham	19	10	2	7	33	30	32
Barking	16	9	4	3	39	26	31
W'thm'stw	18	9	3	6	27	18	30
Wycombe	19	8	5	6	28	19	29
Tooting	22	7	7	8	26	28	28
Hitchin	18	8	3	7	25	29	27
Slough	16	7	4	5	16	13	25
Woking	16	6	5	5	29	25	23
B'ham Wd	17	6	4	7	22	27	22
Sutton	18	5	4	9	22	25	19
Staines	19	4	6	9	24	35	18
Oxford	18	5	3	10	21	41	18
Hayes	19	3	7	9	20	33	16
C'shalton	18	2	9	7	22	30	15
Kingston	15	2	4	9	12	26	10
Ly'stone	15	1	2	12	10	28	5